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NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

Newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services

FEBRUARY/MARCH 1994 VOLUME 7, NUMBER 1

Touch Dancing

by Toni Crane

When we make our entrance at the club the floor is empty. The bouncer, her head shaved and eyes asparkle, greets us. How are we? Where've we been? It's good to have us back in town. Well, it's good to be back.

"She has a crush on you," I say. You blush, Goddess bless you.

"How can you tell?"

"She makes a point to touch your hand when she takes your ID. And looks into your eyes when she hands it back. She's trying to not be obvious."

"Like you?" You smile knowingly.

"Exactly. She sees you with me, and does what I do. She hopes that when you tire of me you will remember her."

"But I don't tire of you," you protest.

"But she doesn't know that."

The bartender, wiping his millionth glass in preparation for his thousandth night, smiles at us. Welcome back, he says. It's good to be home, you reply. Where knowing names isn't a prerequisite to being friendly, I add in my mind. He knows we won't order anything the whole night, as long as we keep dancing. Yet every time we approach the bar, he'll produce two dripping mugs of water and hand them to us, smiling encouragement. We please the staff here, coming early and staying late. The place is never dull while we are there.

Somewhere in the dim recesses where the pool tables, pinball games and bathrooms unobtrusively hang out, an unseen figure flips our switch.

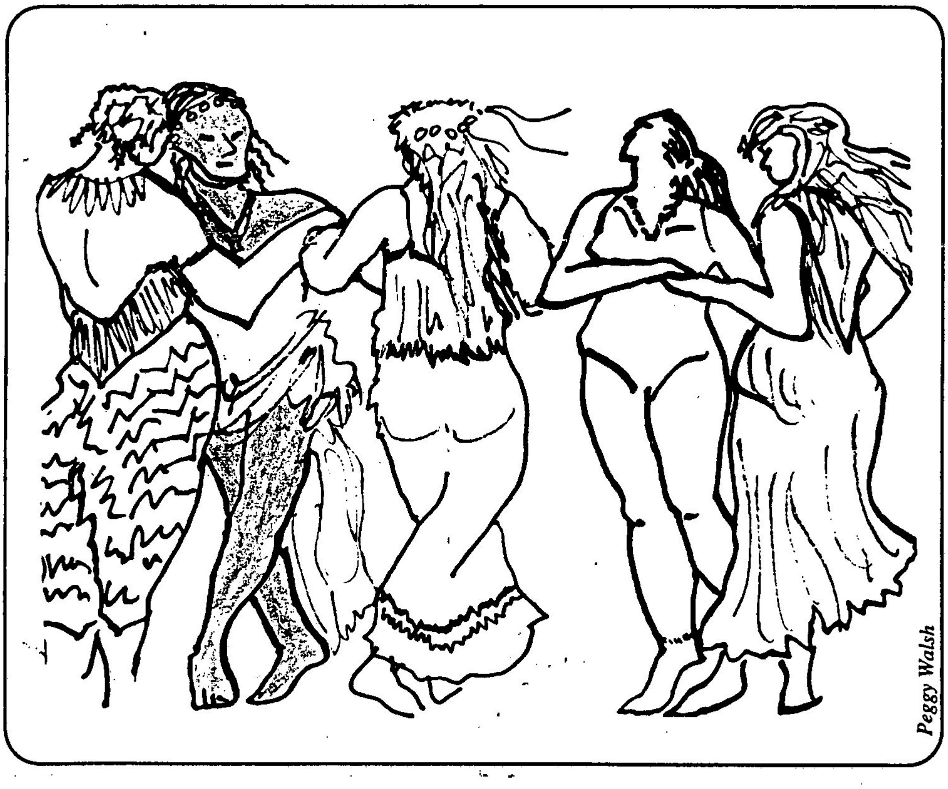
"Shall we?" you inquire, an impish parody of gentility.

"Let's do," I grin; and we take the floor as though it were our own, private dance space. For a good twenty minutes it will be, and we take advantage of every minute of free movement.

We move through the enveloping music, in our own worlds, feeling the rhythm in our bodies. As I spin toward you I catch the familiar, almost enraptured look on your face. Absorbed, I think. Once again I marvel at your grace, how you feel the beat with your body first, intuition over thought. How you possess the space you move in, and the deep satisfaction reflected in the trace of a smile on your face.

Feeling me watching you, your eyes open to meet mine. The warmth of your smile invites me into your circle of energy, where we play the mirror-game of dancing together without touching.

As the dance floor slowly fills, our play becomes more restricted, our movements more confined. The heat, the pulse of the room is amplified by the press of couples moving separately to the same sounds. All about us are groups of women - friends, partners, dates, pick-ups. Their awareness of each other charges the air around us. Periodically, one of us bobs our heads to draw the other's attention to something notable. We share a smile over the sight of two men dancing close in the sea of women. A couple, dressed identically right down to the tails swishing across their backs, evokes a smirk.



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Join! $10-$50/year, sliding scale

I want to wear my bisexuality in my wallet. Make me a card carrying bisexual! Enclosed is $_______ for a 1 year membership.

Subscribe! $10/year, flexible

I want to receive the latest bi news, opinions, writing and art 6 times a year. Enclosed is $______ for a 1 year subscription.

Total enclosed: $____________

Name____________________________________

Address__________________________________

City: _____________________ State/Prov. ________

Zip: ______________ Phone (optional): ____________

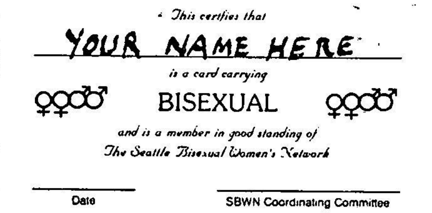
How did you hear about us? ______________________

All contributions are tax-deductible

Please enclose cash, or checks made payable to SBWN

Send to: SBWN, PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, WA 98103-0645

Join the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network and become a card-carrying bisexual!



This certifies that

YOUR NAME HERE

is a card carrying

♀♀♂♂ BISEXUAL ♀♀♂♂

and is a member in good standing of The Seattle Bisexual Women's Network

Date

SBWN Coordinating Committee

Memberships are $10-$50 a year with a sliding scale and are open to women everywhere. Members are entitled to discounts on events and purchases. See mail-in form above.

SBWN Statement of Purpose

We are a group of women from diverse backgrounds working to create a feminist bisexual support network and to promote, in both the heterosexual world and in the lesbian/gay community, the understanding and acceptance of bisexuality as one of many valid sexual identities.

We regard ourselves as part of the community that is united against heterosexism and homophobia. We are dedicated to the right of all people to define their own sexuality, free from any social, political, or economic coercion. The discriminations we face on the bases of our gender and our sexuality are not the only forms of oppression. We recognize that oppression is non-hierarchical and that none of us is free until all of us are free. We are invested in the feminist struggle to transform our culture into one free of all forms of bigotry, hatred, and exploitation.

We seek to provide a safe place for women to explore all aspects of their sexual orientation and identity. All women are welcome to attend SBWN activities. We are exclusively a women's group in order to create a safe space for women's expression and leadership. We come together to affirm ourselves and our choices.

North Bi Northwest

Editors:
Peggy Walsh,
Lisa Coyote, Lizabeth Coller
Distribution::
Bettykay, Denise O., Theressia H. and volunteers

North Bi Northwest is the bi-monthly newsletter of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network. It is produced by women and is feminist in content. We feature news and events pertinent to the bisexual community, as well as essays, poetry, photography,art, book reviews, fiction, cartoons, interviews, erotica, and an advice column.

We welcome submissions from women and men that concern feminism, politics, sexuality, or anything of interest to bisexual women.

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Deadline for submissions to the next issue: **March 9** (see address above).

North Bi Northwest is printed on bi paper! (50% recycled).

North Bi Northwest is a publication of the Seattle Bisexual Women's Network, a member project of Gay Community Social Services, PO Box 22228, Seattle, WA 98122. (Not for correspondence with SBWN or North Bi Northwest)

THE SEATTLE BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORK
P.O. Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle, WA 98103-0645
Phone: (206) 783-7987

SBWN holds regular meetings every other Sunday at 6pm. The Newcomer's group meets every other Monday at 7:15pm.

SBWN can always use volunteers to help with a variety of tasks. Give us a call or speak to a facilitator at a meeting.

North Bi Northwest is available by subscription (see above), or at area bookstores and newstands including **Red and Black** books, **Beyond the Closet**, **Bailey Coy** books, **Fremont Place Book Company**, and **Imprints** in Tacoma.

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SEATTLE
BISEXUAL
WOMEN'S
NETWORK

From the Editors...

This is the first issue of the 7th(!) year of *North Bi Northwest*. We start the new volume and the new year with a new editorial staff, only the third group to work on the newsletter in its history. We are: Peggy Walsh, who has worked in the background of *North Bi Northwest* since its inception; Lisa Coyote, a regular attendee of SBWN events since 1993 and brand new to editing *North Bi Northwest*; and Lizabeth Coller, an SBWN member for four years and a contributor to this publication under her own name and several others.

North Bi Northwest is a result of the efforts of a lot of women, not just the editors. We would like to thank the contributors, the envelope stuffers, and our readers. If any one of you weren't here, the newsletter would not be the same.

We are always looking for more input from you. We want your contributions, even unrelated to the given topic. If you see a book you think would be appropriate, read it and review it. Seen a movie that moved you? Write a review, even if the movie came out two years ago and you found it on the classics table at the rental place. Poetry, stories, art work, all are welcome.

The topic for the April/May issue is mother - being or not being a mother, being a daughter, raising children, mothering yourself. Any ideas? Write them down, send them in. The deadline for submissions is March 9th. If you miss it, send in your work anyway, we may be able to fit it in, or we'll use it in a future newsletter. We accept input on disk with hard copy (Mac or IBM), typed, or handwritten as long as it's legible.

And a note: Have you received some mailings from South Sound BiNet or the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and wondered where they got your address? SBWN and *North Bi Northwest* are often asked to help groups with getting information out. The interested groups give the mailing to us, and we put the mailing labels on before sending them out. The other groups never have access to your name from us! Please be assured that your privacy is being respected. We are not necessarily endorsing the group; we just think the material is of interest to our members and readers.

Special thanks to Denise and especially ben for being angels and providing us with computer access. We owe you one!

South Sound BiNet Signs On

by Kathleen O'Bryan

South Sound BiNet is a new organization in the South Puget Sound area to help establish, and to serve the needs of, the bisexual community in Thurston, Pierce and South King counties. Some of our goals include (but are not limited to) increasing bisexual visibility in both the lesbian/gay and the heterosexual communities, dispelling myths about bisexuality (confused, traitor, fence sitter, trendy, etc. etc. etc...), publishing a newsletter, regular meetings which deal with issues of men's and womyn's bisexuality together and separately, and of course some good old-fashioned fun! We are still in the developmental stages, but we are looking for all the new blood we can find!

Bisexuals come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Many of us are married or in monogamous relationships. Some of us have no partners or multiple partners. Just like lesbian/gay communities, there is no pigeonhole into which we can all be crammed (though many do try).

I have been in the process of coming out to myself over the past four years or so, and coming out to those around me for past six months or so. I empathize painfully with the letters published periodically in *Sound Out* by women who feel very confused and alone because some members of the lesbian/gay and hetero communities are so quick to invalidate their romantic/sexual feelings for both genders.

Criticism from any source makes my feelings no less real to me, and it is only in the past couple of months that I have really begun to stand up for myself. I had heard of criticism of bisexual womyn by some lesbians but it wasn't until last Saturday that I got my first megadose of it. I cruised up to Seattle to check out the new all-girl club, The Easy. A womyn there struck up a conversation with me. About two minutes into it she asked, 'So...are you a dyke?'

I had never used the word in reference to myself. My brain did a little computing, 'hmm...if she means do I dig womyn in a big bad way, then the answer is yes. However, if she means do I dig only womyn, then I guess the answer is no.' All I actually managed to say was something like, 'Uh...' Then she said, 'I mean, you're not, like, bisexual, are you?' with just a hint of disgust in her voice. I hastily replied, 'As a matter of fact, I am.' 'Oh. Well I'm a dyke,' she said. I'm sure that she was completely oblivious to how hurtful her comments were from my end. She then went on to insinuate that because I did not fit her definition of a dyke that I was somehow not a feminist. 'Well, I think most men are creeps,' she said. 'You're right - most men are creeps,' I responded (my apologies to the few of you men who aren't creeps). Anyway, other than that little episode, she was perfectly nice.

She just needs a little education, which is where BiNet comes in. If you are beginning to feel like a ping-pong ball being batted back and forth between communities that don't want you, get involved! Our next meeting is on February 3, 7pm at Steven's home. On Valentine's Day, we'll be doing a Bi-Visibility demonstration in Olympia. South Sound BiNet can be contacted at 206-627-2678 for more information.

Reprinted from *Sound Out*, Olympia, WA. ▼

BiCEP Endorses Hands Off Washington

by ben e factory

Bisexuals are becoming an increasingly visible part of the fight for queer civil rights in Washington. At a December 11th meeting in Seattle, Bi activists formed a political action group called BiCEP/Washington (Bisexual Community Engaging in Politics). BiCEP/Washington was created to make it clear to the queer and straight communities that bisexuals are active in the work to advance the equal rights and liberation of all people.

In particular BiCEP endorses and is working with Hands Off Washington (HOW) to stop the extreme right wing's initiatives which were filed on Monday, January 10th at the Secretary of State's office in Olympia. The initiatives were filed by the Washington Public Affairs Council (WPAC, #610) and the Citizens Alliance of Washington (CAW, #608). WPAC, based in Tacoma and headed by Doug Burman, was instrumental in the 1989 vote which struck down Tacoma's anti-discrimination laws. *(Ed note: We'd hoped they'd get Initiative #666; after all, last year Washington had 601 and 602. Maybe we should've filed sixty or so empty initiatives so we could say 'NO ON 666' and the righteous right would be left cheering on the devilish 666!)* CAW, linked to the Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) and headed by Oregonian Lon Mabon, filed the more harshly worded initiative based on Oregon's defeated Measure 9, and has been in the media recently because Lon Mabon, as CAW's treasurer, fired Tom Larimer, a Washington resident who was CAW's president. Makes you wonder, hmm?

In-fighting within CAW and between CAW and WPAC may help HOW defeat these discrimination initiatives, but BiCEP and HOW need your help to stop the powerful and well-financed right wing.

Your volunteer participation and your generous donations are needed to win this fight. Really! Please give your time and your money, or you may find that you've given up your freedom instead.

BiCEP is working to do statewide organizing and to support regional organizing of bisexual groups to help fight what is definitely a regional and national battle. Please help put us in touch with bisexuals and allies in various areas around Washington and the Northwest. Get involved in efforts to do public education and outreach, fundraising, voter registration and turnout, etc. Please call BiCEP at 206-720-4506 and/or send your donation to PO Box 30645, Greenwood Station, Seattle WA 98103-0645. Hands Off Washington, also in need of volunteers and donations, can be reached at 233-1932, and via PO Box 4828, Seattle WA 98104. HOW has offices throughout Washington. Help out at one near you. ▼

Washington Citizens for Fairness
HANDS OFF
Washington

Hands Off?

When Lon Mabon, Chairman of the Oregon Citizens Alliance, tried to file an anti-gay-rights initiative in Olympia, Secretary of State Ralph Munro was there to stop him - physically. A newspaper photo shows Munro placing a hand on Mabon's chest. Munro barred Mabon, an Oregon native, from filing the initiative. By law, it had to be filed by a Washington resident.

From Jean Godden's column, Seattle Times, January 14, 1994. ▼

Minneapolis Bi Regional Conference Set

The third annual BECAUSE (Bisexual Empowerment Conference: A Uniting Supportive Experience) will be held on April 22-23 in Minneapolis.

This year's emphasis will be on lifestyle and sexual empowerment. Workshops will cover such subjects as family issues, coming out, bi visibility, erotic spirituality, combatting racism & homophobia, and living within the heterosexual and gay communities. Keynote speaker is Carol Queen, bisexual writer and activist from San Francisco.

The conference will be held at the U of Minn on April 23, with keynote speech on Friday the 22nd. Registration is $35 before April 1, and $45 after. Scholarships may be available. The conference is sponsored by The Bisexual Connection, BiWomen and Friends, the University Bi Community, BiNet Midwest, the Gay and Lesbian Community Action Counsel, and the Headwaters Fund.

On Sunday, April 24th will be the BiNet Midwest Regional annual meeting, with the focus on elections for a regional delegate, planning upcoming events, and regional networking. BiNet's Midwest Region includes Upper Mich., Wisc., Kansas, IA, Minn., N. and S. Dakota and Nebraska.

For more information contact Lou Hoffman at 612-788-3702, or write BECAUSE 1994, 1322 Lowry Av NE, Minneapolis MN 55418. ▼

The *Bellevue, WA, Journal American* now calls their gay and lesbian personal ad section "alternative lifestyles." The sections used to be called "Men Seeking Men" and "Women Seeking Women." This was done because readers were threatening to cancel their subscriptions. (The Washington Free Press, Dec 93-Jan 94.)

Int'l Women's Day

International Women's Day, March 8, is celebrated around the world to commemorate the accomplishments and contributions of women. This year's event in Seattle will be on Sunday, March 6, Noon to 4pm at the Center House of Seattle Center.

The Women's Department of Seattle Central Community College and the Seattle chapter of National Organization for Women is planning this year's event. They'd like help, and a diversity of input to create our celebration. If you're interested, join them at Elliott Bay Bookstore Cafe on any (every) Thursday morning 7:30am to 9am, or phone Lexie Evans at 587-3854 or Louise Chermin at 632-8547. ▼

Newsy Bits

The Seattle Central Community College Women's Program is offering a class titled "Hands Off Washington" on February 23. Elsa Durhaun of Hands Off Washington will explore the political and societal dangers that arbitrarily limit the civil rights of any particular group. Call 587-3854 for more information.

Planning is underway for the 1994 Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Pride Parade/March & Freedom Rally in Seattle celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Weekly meetings are being held on Sundays from 7-9 p.m. at Seattle Central Community College, Portable B-108. Call 292-1035 for more information.

The Freedom Day Committee is planning an elegant dinner/dance on February 12 to celebrate Valentine's Day. For more information, call 443-8857.

The University of Washington Women's Center is offering several workshops and classes of interest to bisexual women. "Colors of Pain & Growth: Moving Through a Transition" is offered Wednesday, February 23. "Telling Our Stories: Breaking the Silence" is offered Monday, March 7. "Mothers & Daughters" is offered Saturday, March 12. Call 685-1090 for more information.

Seattle NOW's Lesbian/Bisexual Women's Rights Task Force reports on a lesbian/bisexual women's film being made in response to the anti-gay propaganda films circulating among the extreme right and working their way onto public and religious television. This film intends to promote lesbian/bisexual women's visibility by capturing the everyday lives of a variety of women at work, home, and with their children, in order to let the public know we aren't the freaks portrayed in the anti-gay films. Interested in being filmed? Call the NOW at 632-8547.

The task force meets 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Good Shepherd Center, 4649 Sunnyside Av N, Room 222, Seattle.

Is your computer queer? This is the header for an advertisement for a software package, Queers in History. You will be amazed to discover who's on this list. ▼

Mills Women's College

by Syrenka Slettebak

If this college were really for women
I would woo you on
the wooden bridge, holding
your hand to my heart
dropping lilac petals like kisses
on our reflection in the water below.

If this college were really for women
I would carry you naked to
a shadow in the eucalyptus grove.
Held tight between the tree and me,
your brown skin soft against my cheek,
our tongues would taste like teaberry-
rainwater dribbling thru eucalyptus leaves.

If this college were really for women
I would hold the magenta folds
of your smooth velvet vulva
between my hot fingers, lightly
so very very very lightly
waiting waiting waiting
waiting for your wetness.

If this college were really for women
My tongue flickering flamelike
inside your sexy slit would be
a celebration of lesbian love and
the place between our legs (yes
that place, the unmentionable)
could be what we all long to taste
and be what we call real passion.

BiNet Northwest Regional Conference
Saturday February 12, 1994
Portland State University, Broadway Campus

Schedule:

9-10AM	Registration ($25 for the works, $10 dance only)
10-Noon	Workshops 1
Noon-1PM	Lunch, provided by BiNet/Oregon
1-3PM	Workshops 2
3-5PM	Workshops 3
5-6:30PM	Regional Meeting and delegate elections
8PM-Midn	Dance/Party (non-alcolohic beverages & munchies provided)

WORKSHOPS

W1-A	When You Love Someone Bi - Dale Nader
W1-B	How to Set Up a Speaker's Bureau - Lizabeth Coller
W1-C	Hets, Homos, Switchhitters: a Dialogue - Portland Bi Women's Group
W2-A	Bisexuality & Relationships: Looking at the Menu - Alexei Guren
W2-B	Non-Practicing Bi's - Bisexual Women's Group of Portland
W2-C	Same-Sex Domestic Violence - Ellen Knowden
W3-A	Safer Sex Workshop - Howard Dana
W3-B	Radically Sexed - Maggie O'Hartigan
W3-C	Fighting the Right - ben factory

BiNet's Northwest Region includes Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. If you live there, come join us, or write PO Box 8232, Portland OR 97207.

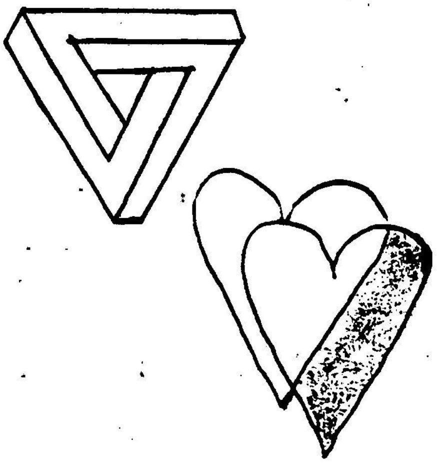
There are limited partial working scholarships available. Call the Bisexual Information Line at 503-635-3156 to leave a message for BiNet/Oregon.

Merchandise can be sold at the dance; sellers are asked to give the larger of $10 or 10% to BiNet.

BiNet Oregon Offers WomenSpace

BiNet Oregon is now offering monthly drop-in woman-only BiSpace meetings. The meetings are facilitated, but open to discussing any topic desired by the participants. Join them at **Laughing Horse Books** at 3652 SE Division St. in Portland, OR., from 7pm to 9pm on the third Tuesday of each month. For more information about Women's BiSpace, contact Aire (*air*-uh) Norell, c/o Bisexual Information Line: 503-635-3156.

BiNet continues to offer drop-in Coed BiSpace on the first Tuesday of each month, same time and place as above. ▼



Beyond the Conference...

While you're already in Portland, maybe you'd like to check out what else the city has to offer.

One of Portland's urban legends holds that Portlanders read more than people in any other US city and there are more bookstores per capita there than in any other city. It does seem true.

The biggest, **Powell's** (acres of books at 1005 W Burnside Av, near downtown), even has a (tiny) bisexual section, though some bi books are also dispersed throughout women's studies, or gay or psychology.

Two new feminist women's bookstores opened last year. **Widdershins**, 1996 SE Ladd Av (at the center of the odd Ladd's Addition neighborhood) opened last April, and **In Other Words**, 3734 SE Hawthorne Blvd, just opened in October.

Widdershins grew out of a three year old mail-order business selling rare and out-of-print books. The store's inventory emphasizes this specialty, much of it on women's history. It's a small and hard-to-find-the-first-time space. To gain attention, they host coffee houses and other events.

In Other Words is in the heart of Portland's feminist community on Hawthorne Blvd, surrounded by quite a few women-owned business. It's run by the non-profit Women's Communication Education Project. Besides selling books, they rent videos, host readings and book groups, and provide an information network for other women's and feminist organizations.

It's My Pleasure, 4526 SE Hawthorne Blvd, has lesbian erotica as well as cards, jewelery, a lending library, woman to woman dating service, a wide variety of workshops and a back room full of special toys.

On February 12, the three women's stores are having a Progressive Fun Event. Start at 3-4:30pm with hors d'oeuvres at It's My Pleasure, then on to Widdershins and In Other Words.

Now, for other kinds of diversions:

A store of, by and for Angels: **Angels and Us**, 3257 SE Hawthorne Blvd, has books, figurines, cards, T-shirts, artwork, all related to angels.

Inner City Hot Springs, 2927 NE Everett St., has a sauna and two outdoor hot tubs for basking under the stars (or clouds). It's possible to reserve private hot tub space.

Balch Creek Watershed at the south end of **Forest Park** on NW Cornell Rd, is a retreat with old growth trees, nature trails and a wildlife center.

In the lobby of **Candy Basket Factory**, 1924 NE 181st Ave in Gresham, has a marble, bronze, and flowing chocolate waterfall. It's open 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, with tours available on weekdays. Ahh, the aroma... ▼

NORTH Bi NORTHWEST

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PO Box 30645, Greenwood Sta, Seattle, WA 98103-0645

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compiled by Peggy Walsh

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- GAINING KNOWLEDGE AND FRIENDS /Leslie Fleming (Bi workshop at Emerald City transsexual/transvestite network meeting)
- GCSS UPDATE: $300 BISEXUALITY VISIBILITY PROJECT /Joan Hill
- THE PASSION OF DECENCY: THOUGHTS ON FEMINISM AND BISEXUALITY /Melissa Benn
- OUT OF THE CLOSETS AND ONTO I-5 /Beth Reba Weise (Portland's Bi Community Forum Conference
- SARAH, SWEET AND SAVORY /Lise Kreps (a story)
- FLASH /Ellen Barnett (Joan & Ellen's radio interview)
- CARTOONS /C Smelser & B Weise, Diane N.

1990 Volume 3

#1 Feb-Mar

- TOWARDS A SEXUAL MINORITY COMMUNITY /Joan Hill & Beth Weise (Lesbian/Bi-woman forum)
- ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM THE BLA'S? THE BISEXUAL LABEL AVOIDANCE SYNDROME /Lucy Friedland
- THE MONTREAL MASSACRE /Jan North
- WHAT IS POLYFIDELITY ANYWAY? /Misha Williams (support group forming)
- PHILOSOPHY IN THE FAST LANE /Robin Gwen (promiscuity, acceptable choice)
- TAKING IT SLOW /Lav Dak (a story)
- TWO ONE NIGHT STANDS: AS TOLD TO AN IMAGINARY LOVER /Gwen (a story)
- INTENT /B Tirrill (a story)
- CARTOONS /C Smelser & B Weise, Clare Thompson
- POETRY /Robin Gwen, Fran, Misha Williams

#2 Apr-May

FINALLY! BI BOOKS BY BISEXUALS! /Beth Reba Weise
SOME THOUGHTS ON BISEXUALITY /Jane Litwoman
FEMINISM AND THE 1990 CONFERENCE / Naomi Tucker & Paul Smith
GCSS FOR BISEXUALS TOO! /Joan Hill
ATHENA II /Lise Kreps (story)
HIDDEN BISEXUALS /Beth Reba Weise (book review)
SBWN AT UW CONFERENCE /Joan Hill
SLUMBER PARTY AT THE BI PLEX
POETRY /Misha Williams
CARTOON /C Smelser & B Weise

#3 Jun-Jul

SECOND ANNUAL NETWORKING OPEN HOUSE /Beth Weise
THE MYTH OF HETEROSEXUAL PRIVILEGE / Lenore Norrgard
A WOMAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY /Laura Petracek
SEXUALLY SPEAKING, I'M HOME /Jessica Stuart
OFFICIAL SBWN SLUMBER PARTY: SMASHINGLY SUCCESSFUL SNOOZING! / Joan Hill
NORTHWEST BI GROUPS /Beth Reba Weise
POETRY /Mary Latham

#4 Aug-Sep

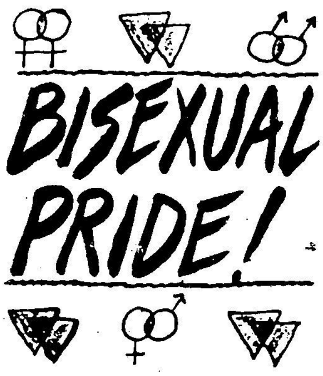
FIRST NATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO: SPEECH TO BICON 1990 / Clare Thompson
THE REALITY OF HETEROSEXUAL PRIVILEGE /Lenore Norrgard
SLIGHTLY LAVENDER: A NUMBER TWO ON THE KINSEY SCALE /Jessica Stewart
'A PROCESS DELICATE AND TERRIFYING:' OPENING SPEECH TO BICON /Beth Reba Weise
BISEXUAL MOVEMENT COMES OUT STRONG /Sarah Murray
VOICES FROM THE CONFERENCE /Ellen Barnett, Bettykay, Sue C-J, Ann Goglia (Boston), Sarah Helfgott, Joan Hill, NJ, Jan North (Vancouver), Peggy, Ariel Rathbun, Alison Thomas (London)
NORTH AMERICAN MULTICULTURAL BISEXUAL NETWORK REPORT /Gwen Riles
TRANSSEXUALS IN SBWN? THE DEBATE BEGINS /Jessica Stewart

#5 Oct-Nov

BISEXUAL SPECIAL COLLECTION BEGUN AT LESBIAN ARCHIVES /Beth Reba Weise
ANOTHER COMING OUT MANIFESTO DISGUISED AS A LETTER TO MY MOTHER / Rachel Kaplan
LOCATING THE BI MOVEMENT WITHIN THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE /Paul Smith
THE THREE LEAVES OF THE SASSAFRAS /Sara Liebe (story)
BI'S AT PFLAG /Joan Hill
POETRY /Phyllis James, Robin Gwen

#6 Dec-Jan

NOTES ON BISEXUAL FEMINISTS AND MEN / Kathleen Bennett
POLITICALLY AND SOCIALLY BI /Bettykay
HOW TO BE A BISEXUAL WOMAN IN LOVE WITH A MAN: (OR THREE REASONS NOT TO LIVE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND) /Ann Schneider
WHOSE CULTURE IS IT ANYWAY? ON WORKSHOP /Lucy Gibson (topic night review)
CONSENSUS DECISION MAKING /N.J.
CARTOON /Roberta



1991 Volume 4

#1 Feb-Mar

FOURTH ANNUAL LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & GAY STUDIES CONFERENCE: A CALL FOR PAPERS AND A CALL FOR ACTION /Robyn Ochs & Pam Ellis
CULTURE AND COMMUNITY: THOUGHTS ON LESBIAN-BISEXUAL RELATIONS /Amanda Udis-Kessler
AN ALLEGORY FOR THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY /Robin Gwen (book review of *Homophobia: A Weapon of Sexism*)
THE TRANSSEXUAL ISSUE:
DISCUSSION MEETING HELD /Jessica Stuart
BI-OUT SPEAKS AT INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER /Ellen Barnett
ARE WE STILL A WOMEN'S GROUP? /Lenore Norrgard
REFLECTIONS BI A BI AT THE NGLTF CONFERENCE /Robyn Ochs
BISEXUALS AND WITCHES /Kathleen Bennett (Lena)
CARTOONS /Roberta, C Smelser & B Weise

#2 Apr-May

THE NEW QUEER EROTICS OF BUTCH AND FEMME /Kathleen Bennett
SOME THOUGHTS ON THE BUTCH-FEMME AESTHETIC /Liz Nania
FINAL DECISION ON TRANSSEXUALS IN SBWN /Beth Reba Weise
INVISIBLE IDENTITIES, OR ANOTHER JEWISH BISEXUAL WOMAN FOR PEACE /Genie Bud
IN DEFENSE OF ANDROGYNY /Beth Reba Weise
COMING OUT AS A LESBIAN AND/OR BISEXUAL IN RECOVERY /Laura Petracek, MSW
CARTOON /Roberta Gregory

#3 Jun-Jul

SEATTLE BISEXUAL MEN'S UNION FLOURISHING AND ACTIVE /ben e factory
A QUESTION OF LABELING /Susanna Trnka
AN OLD BOTTLE FOR OLD WINE: SELECTING THE RIGHT LABEL /M. S. Montgomery
THE BI BI BLUES /Kathleen Hepburn (song)
POETRY /M. S. Montgomery, ben e factory

#4 Aug-Sep

BI NET: BISEXUAL NETWORK OUT AND LOUD!
AN ENCOUNTER WITH JILL JOHNSON /Barbara Gibson
WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US AT 28 BARBARY LANE /Lucy Gibson
GIRLS TAKE OVER THE WORLD /Kathleen Bennett (music review)
ABOUT THE BISEXUAL MOVEMENT (BiNet notes on history, publications)
CARTOON /Roberta Gregory

#5 Oct-Nov

THE SWEET BI AND BI: MALE-FEMALE COUPLES IN THE BISEXUAL WORLD / Kathleen Bennett
COMING OUT AS BI IN THE LESBIAN COMMUNITY: MY EXPERIENCE /Tamara Bower
BI MEN BECOMING ORGANIZED /Dale Nelson
CARTOON /Roberta Gregory

#6 Dec-Jan

INTIMACY, LOVE, ATTRACTION AND LUST / Anna Hebner (topic night review)
FEMINIST IS NOT A DIRTY WORD /Dawn Palmer
REPRINTS FROM PAST ISSUES:
WHICH CAME FIRST, BISEXUAL OR FEMINIST /Ellen Barnett (4/88)
TAKING IT SLOW /Lav Dak (2/90)
TALKING ABOUT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE / Ellen Barnett (2/89)
POLITICS OF MARRIAGE... /Beth Reba Weise (2/89)
RAISING MONEY TO FIGHT AIDS /Beth Reba Weise (12/88)
OUR SECRET GARDENS EXPLORED /Joan Hill (2/89)
WHAT IS 'BISEXUAL?' AM I? ARE YOU? / Lenore Norrgard (2/88)
CARTOON /Roberta Gregory

1992 Volume 5

#1 Feb-Mar

CLOSER TO HOME: SIX AND A HALF YEARS IN SBWN /Beth Reba Weise
POLYFIDELITY /Anna Hebner (topic night review)
...AND BISEXUAL (?) CONFERENCE /Rebecca Kaplan & Annie Senghas
FIRST INTERNATIONAL BISEXUAL CONFERENCE /Liz Highleyman
BISEXUALS CREATE CHANGE AT NGLTF CONFERENCE /Loraine Hutchins
MULTICULTURAL ORGANIZING AND OUTREACH /Cianna Stewart
WHY I LOVE LOVING WOMEN... /Newcomer's group
IN THE BEGINNING... /Erica Avery
POETRY /Alyx
MEMORIES /Peggy Walsh, Roberta, Kathleen Bennett

#2 Apr-May

BISEXUALS CELEBRATE VISIBILITY NATIONWIDE /ben e factory
ALTERNATIVE SEXUAL LIFESTYLES (topic night review)
COMING, NOT OUT OF THE CLOSET, BUT INTO A CULTURE, or, Why Lesbians Aren't All Lesbians Any More /Elizabeth Reba Weise
YOU AND ME /Johanna de M (story)
WHY KINKY SEX? /Kathleen Bennett
ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT / Annemarie Succop (review)
ANTHOLOGIES FROM THE EDGE /Kathleen Bennett (review)
POETRY /ben e factory, Patricia

#3 Jun-Jul

THE *CLOSER TO HOME* INTERVIEW: ELIZABETH REBA WEISE /Lizabeth C.
SAFE SPACE FOR ALL /Alice Chalmers (topic night review)
PARADE NAME CHANGE: REALITY OR RHETORIC /Kathleen E Bennett
PRIDE EVENT'S NAME CHANGE WITHSTANDS OPPOSITION /ben e factory
WHY TURN AWAY AN ALLY? WHY TURN AWAY YOUR SISTERS? /Sian Gramates
CLOSER TO HOME: BISEXUALITY AND FEMINISM /Raven Gildea (book review)
SBWN/SBMU JOINT DISCUSSION ON SEXISM: LAYS GROUNDWORK FOR BINET SEATTLE /ben e factory
CARTOON /Roberta Gregory

#4 Aug-Sep

PRIDE: THE CHALLENGE OF WORKING FOR CHANGE /Raven Gildea
THANKS AND THOUGHTS /ben e factory
MANY ROLE MODELS /Alice Chalmers (topic night review)
'FEELGOODISM' AT THE BALLPARK /Kathleen Bennett (movie review)
BINET FAMILY REUNION /Peggy Walsh
BINET IN THE RAIN /Lizabeth Coller
WOMEN, PHYSICS AND CARTOONS / Annemarie Succop

#5 Oct-Nov

OUT/LOOK, WHAT DO BISEXUALS WANT? / Amanda Udis-Kessler & Elizabeth Reba Weise & Sarah Murray
BIWONWON /Kathleen Bennett (event review)
UNITED WAY REACHES OUT /Peggy Walsh
POETRY /P.

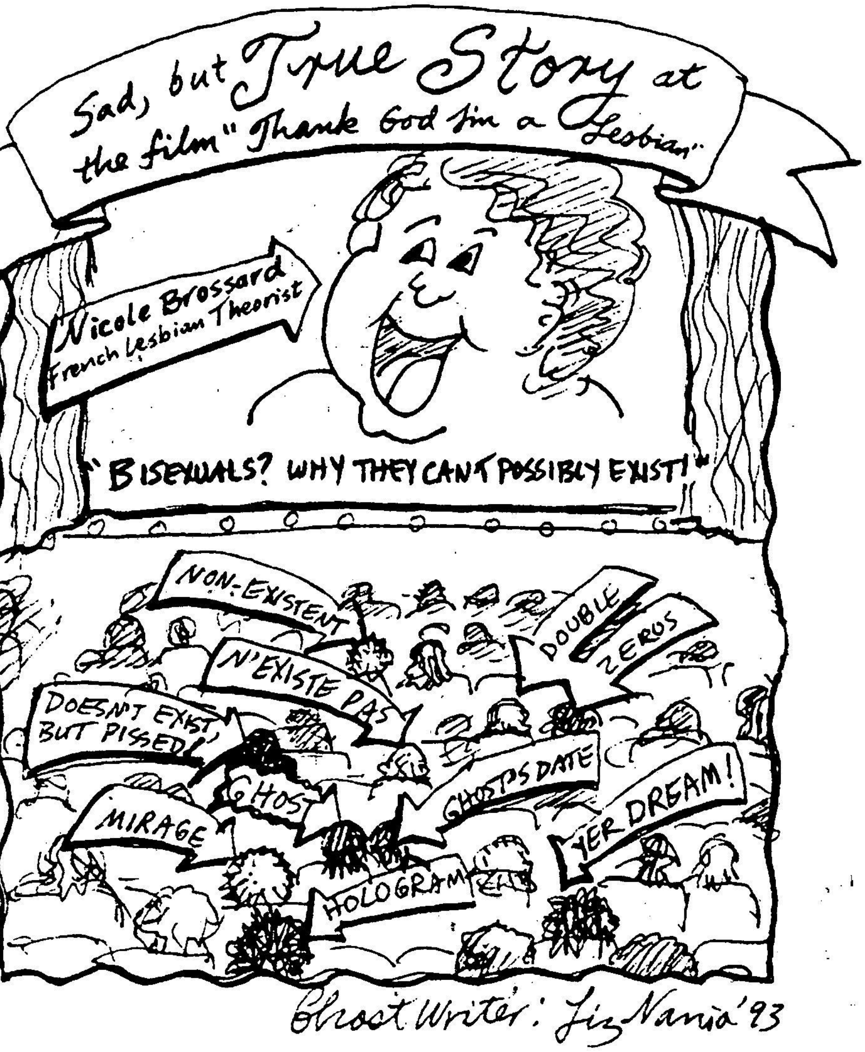
#6 Dec-Jan

SBWN: THE PERSONAL AND THE POLITICAL / Erica Avery
POLYFIDELITY POTLUCK /Lizabeth C.
CREATING CHANGE CONFERENCE: BISEXUAL PRESENCE FELT /Robyn Ochs
MAIL WE GET /Peggy Walsh
TWO SAFER SEX VIGNETTES /Alice Chalmers
MUSINGS ON MULTI-PARTNERED SEX / Annabella

1993 Volume 6

#1 Feb-Mar

PERSPECTIVES ON SBWN STRUGGLES /Del C
THE INVASION OF THE CC ON MONDAY NIGHT /Susan Alyx Reynolds
RESPONSE TO PERSONAL/POLITICAL /Pat Cattolico


Sad, but True Story at the film "Thank God I'm a Lesbian"
Nicole Brossard French Lesbian Theorist
"BISEXUALS? WHY THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY EXIST!"
NON-EXISTENT
DOUBLE ZEROS
N'EXISTE PAS
DOESN'T EXIST, BUT PISSED!
GHOST
GHOSTS DATE
MIRAGE
YER DREAM!
HOLOGRAM
Ghost Writer: Liz Nania '93

DEAR NEWCOMERS /Lizabeth (business report)
BREAKFAST IN BED: THE SURPRISE GIFT /Lea Haravon (story, part one)

#2 Apr-May

BI'S OUT & LOUD AT 1ST ANNUAL NORTHWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE /ben e factory
DEAR ANSWER AMAZONS /Advice column
MY MOTHER'S EYES /M L Luong
PERSONAL ADS /SBWN at topic night
GROUP SEX: SOME THOUGHTS AND EXPERIENCES /Alison, Norwich Eng
BREAKFAST IN BED /Lea Haravon (story, part two)
POETRY /Lav Dak

#3 Jun-Jul

BIG GROUP & BIG BI FUN AT BINET NATIONAL CONFERENCE /Erica Avery
COMMUNAL SEXY STORIES /SBWN at topic night
FACILITATOR COLLECTIVE INTRO
ASK HERCULINE /advice column
SBWN FORMS NEW STRUCTURE /Erica Avery
POETRY /Thornton Kimes

#4 Aug-Sep

SHEELA-NA-GIG /Kathleen Bryson (artwork)
FIRST SLOW DANCE /L H
BI-BOOK MINI REVIEWS /Erica Avery
PUSSY GALORE /Del C, Peggy
POETRY /Kathleen Bryson

#5 Oct-Nov

MENOPAUSAL QUESTIONING /Bettykay
SELF-HELP AND MENSTRUAL EXTRACTION / Lynne Vickery
TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE IN THE BI WORLD /Denise (Deni) Ottoson
THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES: FOR A HEALTHY BODY IMAGE IN AN UNHEALTHY SOCIETY /Liz Nania
THE POLITICS OF MENSTRUATION: WHY SANITARY PRODUCTS ARE UNSANITARY / Liz White
ULTIMATE BISEXUAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE / K Bryson
POETRY /Peggy

#6 Dec-Jan

THE FEMININITY THAT CANNOT BE DENIED / Lisa
BECAUSE LABELS ARE FOR CANS /Delvina (event review)
SPIRITUALITY IS A QUEST /Annabelle P.
DANCING FOR THE ANDROGYNOUS GOD / Paul Talbert
ULTIMATE BISEXUAL WORD SEARCH /R. S.
TR.I.P.TIC /K Bryson (cartoon)
POLY-DICTIONARY /Lizabeth & Internet
POETRY /Peggy Walsh, anonymous ▼

Let's face it, we all have our problems. Whether it's a perilous polyfidelity predicament or simply how to shop for latex, North bi Northwest *is here to help. In keeping with the spirit of bisexualty, we offer more than one reply to each question. Send your queeries to our PO Box, our wisdom-mongers are standing bi.*

Dear Answer Amazons,

'SWM seeks healthy woman;' my first time ever to answer such an ad, says he's a world traveler...non conventional...

I wrote a bit about my travels and adventures and asked in what way he is non-conventional, as that's the key that made him seem maybe interesting. He wrote back that he's 'full of life, full of money... If you want only a friend - buy a dog - 'I'm a sex machine - yes, a normal man...'

I want to know is this guy is a dickhead, or if, alas, this is what normal men are like and there isn't much hope of finding an interesting one. I thought to tell him if he just wants to get laid, get a sheep!

Joan M

Dear Joan M,

If you are looking for non-conventional, forget this ad from a self-admitted sex-machine normal man. In Ms. Queen of Love's many love experiences with normal men, it's been 5 minutes, get off, turn over, and go to sleep. Yes, I can't get no satisfaction time again!

You might do better answering the following ad: SWM seeks relationships with sexually hard-to-please unconventional bi-women.

Joan M, my final advice is to ignore this ad from this at best 'dickhead' and at worst a 'normal man.' Good luck in your future ad adventures.

Queen of Love

Dear Joan,

Oh, dear. Yes, Joan, take it from an ageless goddess, the man's a definitive dickhead. Don't foist him on some poor unsuspecting sheep, though - they are nice animals in general and don't deserve this guy. He'd be so much happier with a rubber 'penis pump.'

If you do want sex machines, stroll on down to Toys in Babeland, and let your fantasies run wild. Believe me, the kind who come in human form are not worth the trouble. But don't let it put you in the blues, dear. There are men (and women, remember) who will rub your feet in Belfast, present you roses on the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, or handfeed you almond torte at the bottom of the Grand Canyon. They are worth all the effort to find and seduce them (ah, the memories and ah, the next)!

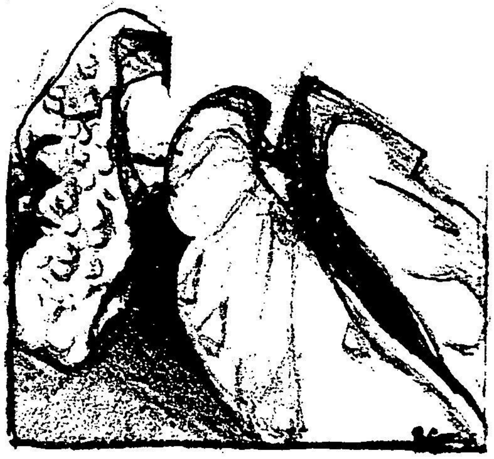
Aphrodite

On Eating An Orange

(Navel Variety)

by Jill Seidenstein

I press my thumb into/
My nail breaks the sweet rind.
The soft skin gives easily under
pressure.
Oh, to peel. I strip
away the shell to leave her
naked. And dripping.
Sweet juice running down my
fingers.
Gently I split her in two in/to
halves/pieces.
Section by section
devoured. Easily. Each
piece so ripe, and yet
it is her fate never
to bear.
How ironic. the navel orange
Complete with umbilical cord.
Yet she is not allowed seeds.
So I munch in joy.
Soothing my throat.



Billie Grace

Support groups, **housing file,** *fiction,* non-fiction, ***magazines,*** newspapers, *emergency referrals,* **service referrals - accountants, attorneys, carpenters, chiropractors, dentists, lawncare, plumbers, therapists - dances,** coming out groups, safe sex kits, **a place to hang out...**

All at the **Lesbian Resource Center**

1208 E. Pine
Seattle, WA 98122
206/322-3953

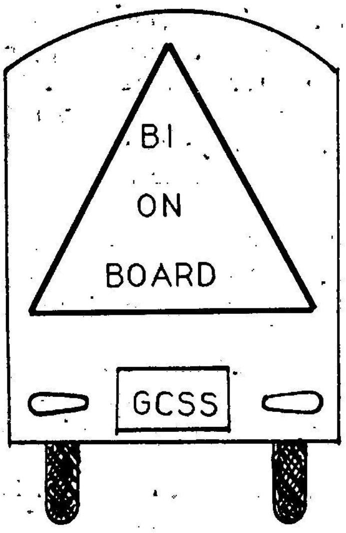
"I was just going to stay home and watch the Brady Bunch marathon on Nick at Night, but then I picked up my copy of the *LRC Community News* and it said there was a great band playing. That was so much fun. And while I was reading I saw that there was this softball tournament this weekend so I'm definitely going to watch that. And I saw that there's a rap group this Wednesday night. And I saw an ad for a mechanic so I think I'll finally get my car fixed...."

LRC Community News.
$12 a year by mail or available from newsstands, bookstores and bars all around town.

1208 E. Pine
Seattle, WA 98122
206/322-3953

GCSS Elects SBWN Member to Board

by Lizabeth Coller



The Gay Community Social Services Annual Meeting was held this past January 8th. It was an opportunity to meet people from the other projects, as all but one had representatives there. An SBWN member was elected to serve as Project Constituency Group Representative on the GCSS board.

Those attending included: SBWN, Heart to Art, RFD, StoneWall Youth Group of Pierce County, Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Snohomish County, NW Gay and Lesbian Employees Network, Celebrating Our State's Lesbian and Gay Citizens, Lesbian Health Network, Lesbian Assistance Project, United Front Against Fascism, and the League for Lesbian and Gay Prisoners.

Once again, SBWN had more people attending than any other group. We're so good! A history of GCSS was given, going back to the days when there was a dream of a rural retreat for the gay community, and the problems that GCSS had.

Since GCSS is trying to get back into granting funds to needy groups, we discussed ways to get money. One thing that I particularly liked was the idea of a talent show. If anyone is interested in being involved, either organizing (groan) or in performing, please let me know. I know we have many talented women, and who knows, maybe a short play or song about bisexuality will be an eye-opening experience for some bigoted gays.

There was then a panel discussion about a Gay community building. There were Tina Podlowski from Lambert House, Ted Lord from Pride Foundation, Valerie Reuther, director of the Lesbian Resource Center; Ruth Brown from GCSS and Advocates for Abused and Battered Lesbians; and Faygele ben Miriam from GCSS. This is a hot topic; Lambert House is looking at purchasing a huge building, but they would want to use all the space. There is also the Women's Building Project, which is looking at building a multi-purpose building (see related article in this issue.) Since we can do outreach to the queer youth of Seattle, we are a gay group, and we are a women's group, we have interest in all 3 projects.

There was then a discussion of the organization's name. Since there have been a number of lesbian groups joining GCSS, some people felt we should look at adding the word "Lesbian" to the name. This then brings in the idea of adding "Bisexual," and/or "Transgender." Most of us just wanted to leave it alone, as there was not enough time to really get into it. The decision to delay further discussion for the time being was made. I'm sure this will come up again.

Next, we heard from each project about what they do, what they did in 1993, and what they hope to do in 1994. There are a lot of things to look forward to. As an offshoot of these introductions several of the projects joined together to march in the Martin Luther King Day parade behind the GCSS banner.

Elected to the board were: Faygele ben Miriam, Ruth Brown, Roger Cook, Clint Lank and Susan Lockwood. I was elected Project Constituency Group Representative.

Once again, the GCSS Annual meeting was part fun, part business, and part learning experience. I encourage anyone who has questions about the role GCSS has in the community, or our role with GCSS, to see me, or to come to a meeting. They are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7-9pm, at Heart to Art, 1015 E Pike St, Seattle. ▼

Touch Dancing

Continued from Page 1

I point out a woman making her entrance outfitted all in the most dramatic blacks, from lace to leather to stilettos. Both your eyebrows lift. Challenging your surprise with a sardonic look, I pointedly caress you own attire with my eyes. Heeled boots, textured stockings, leather skirt, and a bodice that invites my eyes to linger combine to create a subtler look, the better to provoke the imagination. You do not blush.

"Are you folding them neatly?" you ask, drawing close to make yourself heard.

Libido overcoming wit, I turn my face to yours; and we pause our dance a long moment, moving only our mouths and hands. We surface and separate slightly, you draping your arms around my neck, me untangling my fingers from your hair to rest them at the small of your back. A differently sensual dance begins, eyes seeing only eyes, breathing in the musky heat rising from our moist skin.

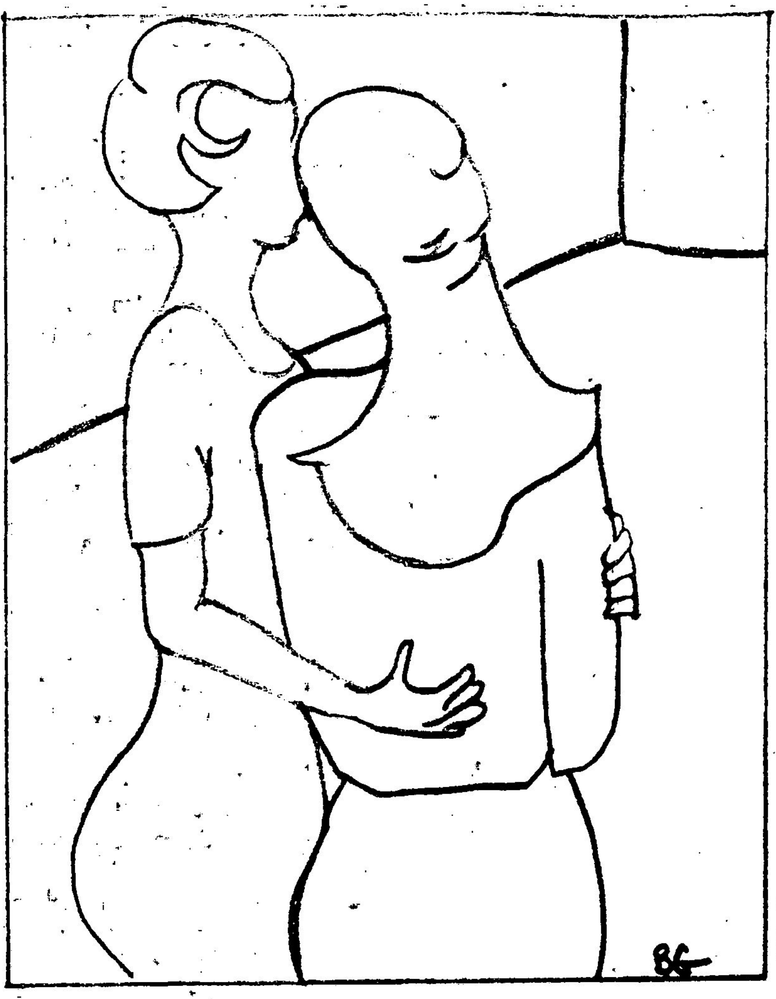
Soon the crowd, the smoke and the desire to be alone pull us away from the intoxicating pulse of the dancers. We take our perspiring glasses into the brisk night air, pressing them to our temples and the napes of our necks.

"It's a sky for making love outdoors," I say, taking your free hand and kissing the palm. I dart my tongue between your fingers and look up at you, one fingertip caught between my lips. In the streetlight I see your eyes spark, dark like mine with the hunger for touch.

"Let's go home," you suggest, retrieving your hand and taking my glass. When you return a moment later with our coats, I trade you mine for a helmet. We buzz down the city streets toward our neighborhood. One arm wrapped tightly around my hips, you slide the other under my jacket and shirt. My breast swells to fill the cool cup of your palm, the nipple shrinking and hardening as you begin to roll it between your fingertips. We veer momentarily, as I adjust to the pleasant shocks dancing up from the arch of my feet and mingling with the ones sliding down my belly into the wetness between my tingling legs.

Fortunately for our health and sanity, the streets are empty and the ride is short. You disengage yourself, reluctantly, to dismount and stow the helmets. Joining hands, we bound up the front steps, racing to unlock the door. Kicking the door shut behind us, you press me against the entryway wall, our mouths searching. When you trace the roof of my mouth with your tongue, I am thankful both you and the wall are holding me up. My hair-entwined fingers pull your head back, and I bury my face in your neck, helping you shed your jacket.

You step back from the wall, slipping me out of my heavy outer layer. You turn to drop my coat in the same heap as yours; and I slide down the zipper on your leather skirt, the soft skin holding your shape until you wiggle to free it and step back out of it, into my arms. My inpatient fingers reach the first of seemingly endless buttons on your bustier-front; and my tongue slips behind your ear. You arch, running one hand down the outside of my thigh and one up into my hair.



Billie Grace

I brush my free hand over your abdomen and run one finger lightly into your damp, soft, curly hair, sliding through the warm satiny ridges. A jagged breath escapes your lips and you turn, pulling me down over you onto the soft, deep rug in front of the cold fireplace.

Together we pull the shirt over my head; and you run your tongue through the hollow between my breasts up to my adam's apple, nipping at my chin and sucking my lower lip into your mouth. As you unclasp your stockings from their belts, I pop free the final buttons on your bustier and run my hands down the length of your legs to pull off each boot. Although tempted to pull them off with my teeth, I roll your stockings down with as much deliberation as I can muster. You motion me to stand, and deftly free the drawcord, sliding my loose pants off my legs. As I toss them aside with one foot, you probe my bellybutton with your tongue, raking your nails lightly down my tightening cheeks, then up the backs of my thighs. I help you rise to your feet; and we stand, each drinking in the other's nakedness in the soft light from the street lamps.

"I love you," you tell me, voice throaty with emotion.

"And I love you," I respond, my own voice barely audible. Then I clasp your hand and step backward, pulling you with me to the butterfly chair nearby. I sink into its canvas sling; and you continue forward until your belly brushes my face, then settle yourself upon my lap. Leaning forward to dance your lips softly over mine, the aroma of mingled musk and tang envelop me, intoxicating. I nibble in from your shoulder along your collarbone, dipping down to catch one soft nipple between my lips. Pulling as much as I can of your breast into my mouth, I probe the firming nipple with my tongue. Your body tautens, the wide vee of your legs raising slightly. Into the gap between your pelvis and mine, I reach one hand, the other stroking your back and legs, and running occasionally across your scalp. Pressing your mons into my palm, your breathing becomes harder and more ragged, with an underlying sound like the beginnings of a word unspoken. I cup my palm, freeing two fingers to slide inside you. As I curl them around the barrier of bone and muscle, stroking over and over the soft pad hidden in your inner walls, the sound becomes a throatsong filling the air around us. All of my senses open to you, listening to your body's demands. Finally, your sound forms itself into a word, then two, cascading over each other.

"Yes," you insist, breathing out, breathing in, "Oh!"

Your cry escalates; and I pull out, pressing my full palm against your risen folds. My free arm wraps tightly around your torso, as yours hug my head into your shoulder.

When at last you fall, I hold you close, feeling the exhaustion of pleasure creeping into your tired muscles.

"Would you like to lie down?" I ask, not wanting to move quite yet.

You shake your head no, drawing me closer within the tangle of our bodies. A moment later, you speak. "I think I better."

We rise to our feet together, unsteady. I wish for the strength to carry you, but failing that, drape your arms about my neck and help you walk into the bedroom. Nestled under the covers, you caress my face, tracing cheekbones, jawline, lingering over my eyes, nose, lips.

"So beautiful..." you say, eyes intense.

"So deep in love," I reply. You hug me tight, the lengths of our bodies touching.

Just when I think you are falling asleep, so serene and relaxed in my arms, your lips begin to murmur against my neck. Suddenly we are kissing again, slowly and deeply, our bodies wrapping around each other. We roll together, kneading muscles still crying for sleep. Hands supporting each other's groggy heads, we sit upright. You flick your tongue into the recesses of my ear, leaving me shivering with goosebumps; then suck upon the lobe. I go moist again, feeling as if all of me is melting under your touch. You move behind me and hug my chest, bringing the back of my neck to your teeth. One set of fingertips raking through my tousled hair, your mouth on my spine sends a shudder through my core.

"Sh...," you breathe into my hairline, "relax." Already fighting a losing battle for focus against the fatigue, I comply. As you nibble and lick your way down the edges of my torso, however, my hands run over your skin of their own accord. Working your mouth in tiny circles around the insides of my hips, you pause and look up at me.

"Pillow," you request. I reach behind my head and deliver one to you. You position it under my hips, whispering your lips along the insides of my thighs. I reach for your hands caressing my belly and we entwine our fingers. Hungry for the mouth pleasing my body, I pull you up over me and lift my head to meet yours. You kiss me but do not linger, feeling your own need.

"I want to taste you," you tell me, increasing the heat in my face and mons alike.

"Yes," I respond, wanting that now with surprising fierceness. "Yes."

You descend across my body, brushing over every inch of my tingling skin with the soft silk of your long hair.

Your tongue glides over my peaked clitoris, dipping among the soft folds. I close my eyes and concentrate only on the sensations of your tongue, teeth and lips as they spark each sensitized spot. Your tongue delves inside me, reaching, and my legs fall open wider, wanting to draw you in. In response, you slide a finger in, then out again. I moan from deprivation, and again you slide inside.

"Yes," I encourage, urgent.

Another finger enters, your mouth continuing to play outside. You intensify your attentions, alternately sucking and flitting your tongue in rhythm with the entry and exit of your fingers, until the waves building inside me crest and burst into light, warming and expanding through my entire body. You return to the circle of my arms, your kiss tasting divine, face damp.

"How do you feel?" you ask, smiling with tender satisfaction.

"No words," I utter, shaking my head slowly in wonder. You draw me to you, and I lay my head on your chest, wrapped in your warmth.

"You said it was a great night for making love outdoors," you whisper teasingly. "Do we get to start over?"

"OK," I murmur, "but you drive." ▼

Submissions are sought for an anthology of menstruation stories. A collection of fiction, reflections, poetry and art work about women's personal experiences with menstruation is being gathered by Paula Wansbrough and Kathy O'Grady, Department of Religion and Culture, Wilfrid Laurier University, 75 University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3C5.

There is also an e-mail address: ko10001@hermes.cam.ac.uk ('k', lowercase o, '1' 3 zeros, etc). The deadline is April 30, 1994.

Advertising

North Bi Northwest welcomes advertising from bi-friendly businesses, individuals, organizations and services. Our advertising rates are as follows:

Business card size: $10/issue
Quarter page: $20/issue
Half page: $40/issue
Full page: $80/issue

2 consecutive issues: 15% discount
3 consecutive issues: 30% discount

For more information call (206) 783-7987 & leave a message.

Dream of Women's Space May Become a Reality in Seattle

by Peggy Walsh

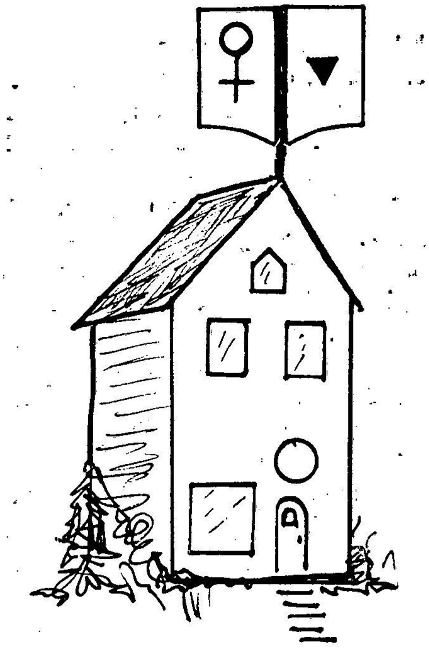
A recent survey of over 150 women's organizations by the Women's Building group has revealed that many women's groups in Western Washington are underfunded and overburdened, and would benefit from a consolidation of skills, knowledge and resources. Nearly half the respondents said they did not have individual office space or adequate parking.

A year ago, several women's groups and individuals began a project to establish The Women's Building. 'We want to increase visibility and support for the many women's organizations in our area,' says Naomi Gottlieb, co-chair of the group. Their goal is to include a library, office space, shared office equipment, meeting rooms, storefront businesses, theatre, kitchen, incubator space for new businesses, parking, and more. They're looking at buying an existing building to renovate and customize, or building a new one, perhaps in the Seattle Commons, itself still just a plan.

The concept of a women's building is not new. They exist in Minneapolis, San Francisco, and Albany, New York. A fourth, in St Louis, is in the planning stages. The women who brought the existing buildings into being did so because they felt, as this group does, that a women's building would provide a consolidated power base for women.

Diversity is a fundamental goal of the Women's Building. The intention is that the coalition represent the diversity of cultures characteristic of Seattle and Western Washington. A few of the groups represented so far include the Asian Pacific Women's Caucus, the Older Women's League, Lesbian Resource Center, and SBWN. Our expectation is that more groups will join in the initial phase and add to the diversity.

So far more than thirty women's organizations and numerous individuals are involved with this project. They meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:45pm at Capitol Hill Neighborhood Service Center at 501 19th Ave E. Call 781-7787 for more information. ▼



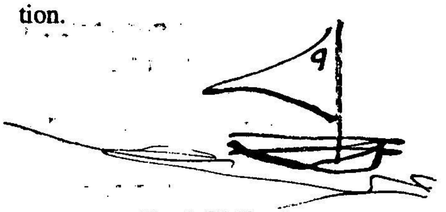
On the other hand...

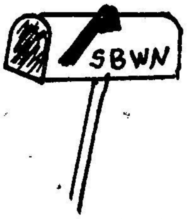
by Peggy Walsh

I've been representing SBWN in the Women's Building plans for half a year, but now I have a dilemma of allegiance. In January I attended the Gay Community Social Services annual meeting, at which a panel presented a discussion on a Community Facility. At this time, the Lesbian Resource Center has funds set aside from their hope to buy their own building; GCSS has capital money from the land they used to own, meant for a facility; the Pride Foundation would consider contributing to a Queer Community Center of some sort; Lambert House, Stonewall Youth, and Association of Gay and Lesbian Youth Advocates are merging to consolidate their services to queer youth, and have their eye on a house and land which is available right now.

It's capital campaign time! There's a lot of work to be done on figuring out just what we need, who we are, and how to share the work and the resulting space.

Assuming all these dreams come true, and I expect they will in time, SBWN will need to address the question of whether to be women in a women's building, bisexuals in a queer building, or some other combination. ▼





Mailbox

The following items have been culled from SBWN's mailbox. All SBWN attendees are free to read the newsletters we receive. If you would like to read more about anything listed here, talk to Peggy.

The Fall 1993 edition of *BiFocus*, Philadelphia reports:

"This morning's episode of "The Dating Game" featured bachelor #1, bachelor #2, bachelorette #3, and bachelorette #4! The person in the "hot seat" was a bisexual woman, with a choice of two men and two women to date!

The host was pretty well-informed about bi issues; for instance, he mentioned the common gay/lesbian belief that "bisexuals don't really exist" (which bachelorette #4 refuted quite nicely... although I thought bachelorette #3 was cuter - as was bachelor #2).

On the other hand, the studio audience seemed quite mystified. One man actually asked, "You're talking about a woman making love to a woman. How is that possible?" (in response to which the contestant quipped, "Well, how graphic a description would you like?").

Bi Frost, a delightful monthly newsletter out of the United Kingdom, devotes quite a bit of its November 1993 issue to coverage of the 11th National Conference in Nottingham. A female correspondent writes of carpooling with the London bisexual group and learning "several shocking new verses to 'She'll Be Coming Round The Mountain.'" Also, "the heating in the halls failed and many of us resorted to bisexual bodywarmth-sharing strategies to get us through the nights. As I said, a sleepless conference..."

Synapse is a new arts publication for the Seattle women's community. *Synapse* is "a woman's collective dedicated to establishing a space where women can come together and have the opportunity to inform, inspire, and interact with one another." They accept poetry, drawings, photography, fiction, interviews, non-fiction, even written music. Synapse is distributed at no cost. The mailing address is PO Box 95220, Seattle, WA 98145-2220. ▼

YOUR EYES, YOUR HEART

By Staci K

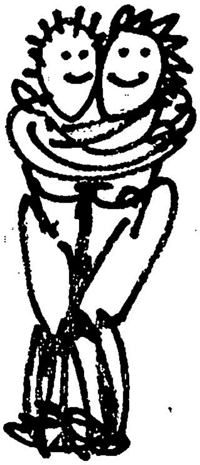
Dedicated to everyone who spends so much time giving love and joy, but tends to forget about themselves in the process.

Your eyes flame with passion's fire.
You see so much in others that you should see in yourself.
Your heart overflows with love and joy.
You love so many; love yourself with the same compassion.
Tend to your wounds as you do the wounds of others.
Wipe up your tears as you wipe up the milk that's spilled upon the floor, and keep going.
You'll never be perfect, so why try?
March on to capture your desires, before the flame goes out and while the love and joy still flow in such abundance.

BE MINE

By Staci K

The touch of your hand
sends me flying to the moon.
The softness of you breath brushing my neck,
melts me deep within.
Your tender voice carries me to places
beyond exploration.
You whisper, 'Will you be mine?'
My mind says I am yours,
my body the same.
My mouth can only revel in the sheer ecstasy of your kiss.
Savoring each moment as the last,
hoping it will never be.
Your mouth finds my breast, igniting a flame of sensation
that spreads rapidly through my body.
Through the desire burning in my throat I utter,
'I'm yours or I'm nothing!'



TIME WILL TELL

by Staci K

Dedicated to those who have yet to find that special someone.

In time you'll have that feeling of sheer desire
that you so long for.
In time you'll have everlasting love
for someone very special.
You'll feel the hand of happiness,
the touch of joy.
You'll revel in the excitement of your lover's touch,
the ecstasy of their gentle lovemaking.
As you fall into a spiral of uncontrollable passion,
you'll feel the quaking inside you.
Give it time;
all your dreams will come true
as your fears subside.

Calendar

For location, confirmation, or more information call the appropriate message machine and someone will get back to you (with discretion, if necessary). For SBWN events call (206) 783-7987. For all other events (BiNet, Seattle Bisexual Men's Union, etc.) call (206) 720-4506. *.Denotes multi-gender event.

Tues Feb 1 Bluestockings feminist reading group, 7pm at Devra's. *Subversive Thoughts, Authentic Passions* by Bonnie Kreps.

Wed Feb 2 2nd Bi Second: Cafe Cielo, 7pm Dinner, 8pm Jazz. *

Sat Feb 5 Big Bi Fun, 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market..*

Mon Feb 7 SBWN Newcomer meeting, 7:15pm. Topic: BiValentine suggestions.

Wed Feb 9 BiNet meeting, 7pm at Denise's.*

Sat Feb 12 BiNET Northwest Regional Conference in Portland. *

Sun Feb 13 SBWN Meeting, 6pm. Topic: Valentine's Day: Romance or Burden?

Mon Feb 14 Bi Visibility Day. *

Mon Feb 14 SBMU meeting, 7pm. Topic: Bisexuality, Love & Romance.

Tues Feb 15 SBWN phone answered live 8:30-10:30pm.

Sat Feb 19 Big Bi Fun, 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market. *

Mon Feb 21 SBWN Newcomer meeting, 7:15pm. Topic: What is Bisexuality?

Thurs Feb 24 SBWN phone answered live 7-9pm.

Thurs Feb 24 Facilitator's Collective 7:30pm

Fri Feb 25 SBMU social: Purim Costume Party, 9pm, location TBA.

Sun Feb 27 SBWN meeting, 6pm. Topic: Current Queer Political Issues.

Tues Mar 1 Bluestockings, 7pm at Lizabeth's. *Dogeaters* by Jessica Hagedorn.

Wed Mar 2 2nd Bi Second ,TBA *

Sat Mar 5 Big Bi Fun, 9pm, at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market. *

Sun Mar 6 International Women's Day event, Noon-4pm at Seattle Center House.

Mon Mar 7 SBWN Newcomer meeting, 7:15pm. Topic: Coming Out to Your Cat, Friends and Co-Workers.

Tues Mar 8 SBWN Board Meeting, 7pm at Lizabeth's.

Wed Mar 9 BiNet meeting, 7pm at Debbie & Jason's. *

Sun Mar 13 SBWN meeting, 6pm. Topic: Polyfidelity/Nonmonogamy.

Mon Mar 14 SBMU meeting, 7pm. Topic: Personal Appearance, Self-Expression, Body Image.

Mon Mar 14 SBWN phone answered live 8:30-10:30pm.

Wed Mar 16 Facilitator's Collective 7pm.

Sat Mar 19 Polyfidelity Potluck 7pm at Pilgrim Congregational Church. *

Sat Mar 19 Big Bi Fun, 9pm, Bulldog News in the Broadway Market. *

Mon Mar 21 SBWN Newcomer meeting, 7:15pm. Topic: Spirituality & Coming Out.

Thurs Mar 24 SBWN phone answered live 7-9pm.

Fri Mar 25 SBMU social, 9pm. Vernal Equinox Party. Location TBA.

Sun Mar 27 SBWN meeting, 6pm, Rap Grp

Sat Apr 2 Second bi 2nd. Picnic at Gasworks Park, 2pm. *

Sat Apr 2 Big Bi Fun, 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market. *

Mon Apr 4 SBWN Newcomer's Meeting, 7:15pm.

Tues Apr 5 Bluestockings, 7pm. Book TBA.

Sun Apr 10 SBWN meeting, 6pm.

BiNet meeting 7pm at Peggy's.

Bluestockings is an SBWN-affiliated feminist women's reading group that meets on the first Tuesday of the month, unless that day falls on the 2nd, in which case the meeting will be on the second Tuesday. We will try to alternate between academic writings and more accessible writings.

The Polyfidelity Potluck on January 22 was a resounding success! Planning for March 19 is in the works; call 720-4506 for more information.

The Big Bi Fun Club meets every other Saturday night at 9pm at Bulldog News in the Broadway Market. All bi-friendly people are welcome to join us as we gather and then decide together what activity we are going to go out and do. It's a great way to meet people and have fun as you promote bi visiblity.

SBWN (Seattle Bisexual Women's Network) meets regularly on alternate Sundays and has Newcomer meetings on alternate Mondays. For security purposes we don't publish the address. For more information call our message machine and we'll call you back (with discretion, if necessary). Note our occasional live phone answer times.

SBMU (Seattle Bisexual Men's Union) is a men's anti-sexist support and social group that has discussion meetings on the second Mondays of the month at Pilgrim Congregational Church, room 304 (Broadway & Republican, enter from 10th Av). Suggested donation $3.

On the fourth Fridays of the month there's a social event. Call 720-4506 for details.

2nd bi Second is a floating social event held on the second of every month. Its theme is meant to be more family-oriented than Big Bi Fun.

BiNet, the Bisexual Network of Seattle, is a multi-gender group dedicated to providing information about bisexuality, promoting bisexual visibility, and drawing together bi-friendly people for Big Fun. BiNet has also spun off several small social, support and special-interest organizations.